## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12 and 16, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having on its surface an adhesion layer containing an organic pigment as a primary component, the method comprising the steps of:

mixing a rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 80 $\mu$m to 200 $\mu$m with a treating solution ~~containing an~~ prepared by dispersing an organic pigment having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 0.01 $\mu$m to 0.5 $\mu$m in weakly alkaline water whose pH is controlled to a range of 6.5 to 9.0,

and then drying the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the method further comprises, after the mixing step and before the drying step, a step of obtaining by

filtration the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the organic pigment accounts for 5 wt% to 33 wt% of said treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said treating solution containing the organic pigment comprises an organic dispersing medium.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an adhesion layer containing an organic pigment as a primary component, the method comprising the steps of:

mixing a rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 80 $\mu$m to 200 $\mu$m, and having one or more layers of coating films formed on the surface thereof with a treating solution ~~containing~~ prepared by dispersing an organic pigment having an average particle major axis diameter in the range of 0.01 $\mu$m to 0.5 $\mu$m in weakly alkaline water whose pH is controlled to a range of 6.5 to 9.0,

and then drying the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the outermost surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claims 17-20 (Canceled).